

Planning for March 2006 SACGHS Meeting and Concluding Remarks
Cynthia E. Berry, J.D.

MS. BERRY: Our next meeting is March 27th and 28th, 2006. We don't know where it will be yet. Location to be determined.

MS. MASNY: Cindy, just a question about would we be looking at other issues for the next meeting, to discuss at the next meeting besides what we've listed there?

MS. BERRY: Yes. Do people have time?

MS. CARR: Does anyone have any suggestions? I do think if both of these topics, you know, we're ready to come back with them, I think that will take most of the two days.

You probably wanted to have something, hear something more about genetic discrimination again, and perhaps Cogent Research offered to come back. I think they're going to have some additional data in February that would be of interest to the committee, so we could consider that.

But if there's anything else that is also not on our priorities list, or you feel there's something that needs to come up, we're also, remember, going to have the patents Academy presentation and discussion of that.

Agnes, go ahead.

MS. MASNY: The only thing that I was thinking that came up a few times during our presentations over the past two days was the issue of law enforcement use of genetics.

In our original charter, that was one of the things that was presented as looking at some of the legal, social, and ethical issues related to forensics. Although we didn't have it as a priority area, I wonder especially in view of moving forward with recommendations on the large population research initiative, there were concerns that were expressed there, whether that's a topic that we should look at formally as a committee.

MS. CARR: Could I just remind the committee that the Department of Justice is an ex officio to the committee. The person who was appointed ex officio has left the agency, the department, and a new ex officio hasn't yet been appointed.

I guess, well, it is up to the committee obviously if you wanted to add that to the agenda. But it might make sense to wait until the Justice Department is back on board and confer with them and maybe have somebody from, at some point, maybe in March in next year, to have somebody from FBI come back.

MS. BERRY: And there is also legislation that's being considered, I know particularly over on the Senate side. I don't know what the House has done with it, pertaining to DNA sampling, genetic testing, and its use, both by the defendant and by the prosecution.

So if we have something like that on the agenda, it might be good to get a briefing from the Hill as well on the progress of that.

SACGHS Meeting Transcript
October 19-20, 2005

DR. FITZGERALD: Just a quick question for Sarah. Is there a limit to the appointment process? Or can Justice just keep delaying and not give us an ex officio representative? Is there like a time line or time limit they have to send someone our way?

MS. CARR: No, we would welcome them at the table at any time, of course. We have been checking.

DR. FITZGERALD: You have? Thanks.

MS. CARR: Yes, we do check in with them periodically. We'll do it again.

MS. BERRY: Any other comments?

(No response.)

MS. BERRY: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

PARTICIPANT: So moved.

PARTICIPANT: Second.

MS. BERRY: All right.

(Whereupon, at 3:24 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)